

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a trusted boot source in a computer system, the computer system including a partition and an operating system, the partition being nonviewable from the operating system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) allowing a plurality of sub-partitions to be defined in the partition, the plurality of sub-partitions corresponding to a plurality of boot sources; and
 - (b) allowing a password to be provided for each of the plurality of sub-partitions, the password being required for a user to utilize a corresponding sub-partition as a boot source.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - (c) allowing a user to boot from a sub-partition of the plurality sub-partitions if the user provides the password for the sub-partition.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the partition is stored in a hardfile of the computer system.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein an identity of each of the plurality of sub-partitions and the password for each sub-partition is stored in the hardfile.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the partition is lockable from the operating

2 system.

- 1 6. A computer system comprising:
 - 2 an operating system;
 - 3 a partition including a plurality of sub-partitions, the partition being nonviewable
 - 4 from the operating system, the plurality of sub-partitions corresponding to a plurality of boot
 - 5 sources; and
 - 6 a password for each of the plurality of sub-partitions, the password being required for
 - 7 a user to utilize a corresponding sub-partition as a boot source.

1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein a user is allowed to boot from a sub-
2 partition of the plurality sub-partitions if the user provides the password for the sub-
3 partition.

1 8. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the computer system further
2 includes a hardfile and wherein the partition is stored in the hardfile.

1 9. The computer system of claim 8 wherein an identity of each of the plurality
2 of sub-partitions and the password for each sub-partition is stored in the hardfile.

1 10. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the partition is lockable from the
2 operating system.